

Exhibit No. 3Date 1-14-2011Bill No. SB 69

January 14, 2011

SB69: Naming first floor of east wing of the capitol building.
Introduced by D. Wanzenried

First of all, let me say that my objections to this bill are general and not in any way personal. I did not know the man, but appreciate his commitment and service.

That said, I feel a person's legacy should be the extent to which their actions made their community better. It should not be the size, type, or location of a memorial.

What criteria should be used to decide such characteristics? How can it be accurately determined that one person deserves a bigger, better, more important memorial than another? What happens if another person later does something just a little bit more important? Where does it end? How many buildings, halls, wings, and annexes does the State have available for this purpose?

In most cases, the military has resolved this question by having a uniform format for headstones and markers. From what I've seen of Arlington National Cemetery, the Punchbowl National Cemetery in Hawaii, and veteran's sections of local cemeteries, all markers are the same size and configuration, regardless of rank, branch of service, or honors received.

If the State wishes to honor legislators for outstanding service, a more appropriate method might be a Wall of ~~Halls~~ ^{Honors} in a designated area where a plaque of uniform size and format for each honoree is installed upon approval.

Lastly, I don't think any honors should be codified as part of Montana law.

Thank you,

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